

Introduced by Senator Lowenthal

February 8, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 91—Relative to the Watts Towers of Simon Rodia in the City of Los Angeles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 91, as introduced, Lowenthal. Watts Towers of Simon Rodia in the City of Los Angeles.

This measure would declare that a specified exit on State Highway Route 110 should be designated noting the presence of the Watts Towers of Simon Rodia, a State Historical Landmark in the City of Los Angeles, and that followup signs should be placed along the route from that exit to the Watts Towers. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing that designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, The Watts Towers of Simon Rodia in the
2 community of Watts are a complex set of about 17 sculptural
3 pieces that are perhaps the nation's best known work of folk art
4 sculpture; and

5 WHEREAS, Using simple hand tools and cast off materials,
6 Italian immigrant Simon Rodia worked on the towers from 1921
7 until 1955, creating the sculptures as a tribute to his adopted
8 country and a monument to the spirit of individuals who make
9 their dreams tangible; and

10 WHEREAS, The Watts Towers are a State Historical
11 Landmark, and are also one of only nine works of folk art listed
12 on the National Register of Historic Places; and

1 WHEREAS, There are currently State Historical Landmark
2 signs on State Highway Route 105 at Wilmington Avenue; and

3 WHEREAS, Placing highway signs noting the presence of this
4 historical landmark on State Highway Route 110 would
5 encourage visits to the site and the community of Watts; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Century Boulevard exit on State
9 Highway Route 110 should be designated with a State Historical
10 Landmark sign noting the presence of the Watts Towers, and that
11 followup signs shall be placed along the route from that exit to
12 Watts Towers; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
14 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
15 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing these
16 designations, and upon receiving donations from nonstate
17 sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect these signs; and be it
18 further

19 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
20 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and the
21 author for appropriate distribution.